

REMARKS

The Office Action in the above-identified application has been carefully considered and this amendment has been presented to place this application in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, reexamination and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 6-9, and 13-17 are in the present application. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. Changes to the claims as presented herein, are not submitted for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. sections 101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are submitted simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled. Claims 3-5 and 10-12 have been canceled.

Claims 2-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshida (U.S. Patent 5,212,643) in view of De Jong (European Patent publication 0 378 271) and further in view of Watanabe et al. (U.S. Patent 6,011,494). In response, independent claims 2 and 9 have been amended to include the limitations of canceled claims 3-5 and 10-12, respectively. More specifically, the present claims recite that "said geographical distances from said center to said circles or said arcs and the number of said circles or said arcs are changed in accordance with a degree of contraction of said map." (Claims 2 and 9) In other words, the present invention adjusts the number of circles which are displayed based on the scale, which is set by "a degree of contraction." Although Yoshida teaches that the display unit changes the contraction of a map with a changeover switch, Yoshida does not disclose that the number of circles being

displayed is changed to correspond with a degree of contraction as required in the present invention. Likewise, De Jong and Wantanabe fail to meet this limitation. Therefore, for at least this reason, Applicants believe claims 2, 6-9, and 13-17 should now be allowed.

Claims 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshida and De Jong, as discussed above, and further in view of Koyanagi (U.S. Patent 6,012,014). However, Koyanagi is relied upon solely to meet the limitations in dependent claims 16 and 17 and fails to meet the limitations of independent claims 2 and 9 for the same reasons as discussed above. Accordingly, the combination of Yoshida, DeJong, Wantanabe, and Koyanagi fails to obviate the present invention and the rejected claims should now be allowed.

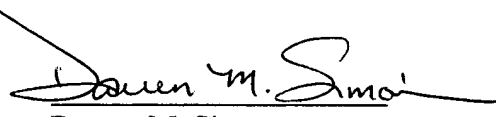
In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application as now presented is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

No additional fees are deemed to be required for the filing of this amendment, but if such are, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darren M. Simon", written over a horizontal line.

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